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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,625	09/19/2003	Robert H. Kummer JR.	F-724	6557

7590

11/20/2006

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EXAMINER

VETTER, DANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3628

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/665,625

Applicant(s)

KUMMER ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel P. Vetter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/19/2003, 07/03/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Reference AN on the information disclosure statement filed July 3, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. Therefore, Reference AN has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 8, 9, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 8 recites the limitation "if said difference is negative" in lines 2-3. This is an open-ended conditional limitation that adds a step to occur if a certain event takes place; but the claim does not state what would occur as a part of the invention if the event does not occur. This leaves the scope of the claim vague and indefinite.

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5. Claim 9 recites the limitations "if said first difference is negative" in lines 2-3 and "if said second difference is negative" in lines 3-4. These are open-ended conditional limitations that add steps to occur if certain events take place; but the claim does not state what would occur as a part of the invention if the events do not occur. This leaves the scope of the claim vague and indefinite.

6. Claim 19 recites the limitation "if said difference is negative" in lines 2-3. This is an open-ended conditional limitation that adds a step to occur if a certain event takes place but the claim does not state what would occur as a part of the invention if the event does not occur. This leaves the scope of the claim vague and indefinite.

7. Claim 20 recites the limitations "if said first difference is negative" in lines 2-3 and "if said second difference is negative" in lines 3-4. These are open-ended conditional limitations that add steps to occur if certain events take place; but the claim does not state what would occur as a part of the invention if the events do not occur. This leaves the scope of the claim vague and indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sansone, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,019,991 (Reference A of the attached PTO-892) in view of Uno, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,535,127 (Reference B of the attached PTO-892).

10. As per claim 1, Sansone, et al. teaches a method of processing one or more pieces of residual mail, comprising: accessing parameters (column 4, line 10); accessing previously stored data corresponding to a second class of service to which a postage value originally applied to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail is to be corrected (column 4, line 11); generating a postage correction table from the parameters and the previously stored data (column 4, lines 10-12; Examiner is interpreting comparing the parameters with the previously stored data as generating a table from the parameters and the previously stored data); determining a postage correction amount for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail based on said postage correction table (column 4, lines 13-14); and applying said determined postage correction amount to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail (column 4, lines 14-15, 18-19). Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach that the first parameter is a rate table corresponding to a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail and does not explicitly teach that the previously stored data

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is a second rate table. Uno, et al. teaches a first rate table corresponding to a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail and a second rate table (column 14, line 51; column 17, lines 57-61)). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a first rate table corresponding to a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail and a second rate table into the method taught by Sansone, et al. because mail is broadly divided into two types that have multiple subdivisions (as taught by Uno, et al., column 14, lines 52-64).

11. As per claim 2, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches determining a weight of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail (column 3, lines 29-30), wherein said postage correction amount is based on said weight of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail (column 4, line 20).

12. As per claim 3, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 2 as described above. Uno, et al. further teaches determining one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail (column 15, lines 57-62), wherein said postage correction amount is further based on said one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail (column 17, lines 57-58; column 18, lines 16-17). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

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art at the time of invention to incorporate determining one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail, wherein said postage correction amount is further based on said one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different sizes have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

13. As per claim 4, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 2 as described above. The postage correction table as taught by Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates. Uno, et al. further teaches a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates (column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

14. As per claim 5, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 2 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches calculating a difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break (column 6, lines 30-37). Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate

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from said first rate table. Uno, et al. teaches for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table (Fig. 36; column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

15. As per claim 6, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 3 as described above. The postage correction table as taught by Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges. Uno, et al. further teaches a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges (column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of

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different weights and dimensions have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

16. As per claim 7, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 6 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches calculating a difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break (column 6, lines 30-37). Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break. Uno, et al. teaches for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break (column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a

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second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights and dimensions have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

17. As per claim 8, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 5 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches the calculating step setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said difference is negative (column 5, lines 14-18). Examiner is interpreting sending a confirmation if the postage is correct as setting the correction rate equal to zero.

18. As per claim 9, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 7 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said first difference is negative (column 5, lines 14-18). Examiner is interpreting sending a confirmation if the postage is correct as setting the correction rate equal to zero. Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative. Uno, et al. teaches setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative (column 17, line 57 – column 18, line 21). It would have been prima facie obvious to

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incorporate setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights and dimensions have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

19. As per claim 10, Sansone, et al. teaches a mail processing system, comprising: a metering/printing module for applying postage values to one or more pieces of mail (column 3, lines 50-51); a central processing unit controlling operation of said metering/printing module (column 3, line 59); and a memory storing information including software executable by said central processing unit (column 3, line 60), said software including instructions for accessing parameters (column 4, line 10); accessing previously stored data corresponding to a second class of service to which a postage value originally applied to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail is to be corrected (column 4, line 11); generating a postage correction table from the parameters and the previously stored data (column 4, lines 10-12; Examiner is interpreting comparing the parameters with the previously stored data as generating a table from the parameters and the previously stored data); determining a postage correction amount for each of said one or more pieces of residual mail based on said postage correction table (column 4, lines 13-14); and causing said metering/printing module to apply said determined postage correction amount to one of each of said one

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or more pieces of residual mail (column 3, lines 59-64; column 4, lines 14-15, 18-19).

Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach that the first parameter is a rate table corresponding to a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail and does not explicitly teach that the previously stored data is a second rate table. Uno, et al. teaches a first rate table corresponding to a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail and a second rate table (column 14, line 51; column 17, lines 57-61)). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a first rate table corresponding to a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail and a second rate table into the system taught by Sansone, et al. because mail is broadly divided into two types that have multiple subdivisions (as taught by Uno, et al., column 14, lines 52-64).

20. As per claim 11, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 10 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches a weighing module for weighing one or more mail pieces, said weighing module being controlled by said central processing unit, said software further including instructions for determining a weight for said one or more pieces of residual mail using said weighing module, (column 3, lines 59-60), wherein said postage correction amount is based on said weight of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail (column 4, line 20).

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21. As per claim 12, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 11 as described above. The postage correction table as taught by Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates. Uno, et al. further teaches a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates (column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

22. As per claim 13, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 12 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches instructions for calculating a difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break (column 6, lines 30-37). Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table. Uno, et al. teaches for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table (Fig. 36; column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

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the time of invention to incorporate for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

23. As per claim 14, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 11 as described above. Uno, et al. further teaches a dimensioning module for determining one or more dimensions of a mail piece said dimensioning module being controlled by said central processing unit (column 4, line 56 - column 5, line 8, 21-22), said software further including instructions for determining one or more dimensions for said one or more pieces of residual mail using said dimensioning module (column 5, lines 22-24; column 15, lines 57-64), wherein said postage correction amount is further based on said one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail (column 17, lines 57-58; column 18, lines 16-17). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate determining one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail, wherein said postage correction amount is further based on said one or more dimensions of each of said one or more pieces of residual mail into the system taught

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by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different sizes have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

24. As per claim 15, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 14 as described above. Uno, et al. further teaches the dimensioning module comprising an array of sensors (column 4, lines 30-33). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the dimensioning module comprising an array of sensors into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because sensors are used to measure thickness and outer dimensions (as taught by Uno, et al., column 4, lines 30-33).

25. As per claim 16, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 15 as described above. Uno, et al. further teaches the sensors being optical sensors (column 4, line 33). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the sensors being optical sensors into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. in order to sense the postal indicia impression (as taught by a Uno, et al., column 4, line 34).

26. As per claim 17, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 14 as described above. The postage correction table as taught by Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges. Uno, et al. further teaches a

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plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges (column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate a plurality of weight breaks and a plurality of corresponding postage correction rates and dimension based charges into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights and dimensions have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

27. As per claim 18, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 17 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches instructions for calculating a difference being said postage correction rate for said weight break (column 6, lines 30-37). Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break. Uno, et al. teaches for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said

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second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break (column 15, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate for each of said weight breaks, the difference being between a first corresponding rate from said second rate table and a second corresponding rate from said first rate table and a second difference between a first corresponding dimension based charge from said second rate table and a second corresponding dimension based charge from said first rate table, said second difference being said dimension based charge for said weight break into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights and dimensions have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

28. As per claim 19, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 13 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches the calculating step setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said difference is negative (column 5, lines 14-18). Examiner is interpreting sending a confirmation if the postage is correct as setting the correction rate equal to zero.

29. As per claim 20, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 13 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches setting said postage correction rate equal to zero if said first difference is negative (column 5, lines 14-18).

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Examiner is interpreting sending a confirmation if the postage is correct as setting the correction rate equal to zero. Sansone, et al. does not explicitly teach setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative. Uno, et al. teaches setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative (column 17, line 57 – column 18, line 21). It would have been prima facie obvious to incorporate setting said dimension based charge equal to zero if said second difference is negative into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights and dimensions have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

30. As per claim 21, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches receiving mail parameters teaches (column 4, line 10), but does not explicitly teach that these parameters include a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail; and accessing a first rate table corresponding to the received first class of service. Uno, et al. teaches a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail; and accessing a first rate table corresponding to the received first class of service (Fig. 36; column 15, lines 1-2, Table). It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a first class of service used to originally process said one or more pieces of residual mail; and accessing a first

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rate table corresponding to the received first class of service into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because different classes of mail have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., Fig. 36).

31. As per claim 22, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the method of claim 21 as described above. Sansone, et al. further teaches accessing previously stored data to which a postage value originally applied to each of said one or more pieces of residual mail is to be corrected (column 4, lines 10-14), but does not explicitly teach that the data includes a second class of service; and a second rate table corresponding to the received second class of service. Uno, et al. teaches a second class of service and a second rate table corresponding to the received second class of service (Fig. 36). One having ordinary skill in the art the time of invention would have been motivated to incorporate a second class of service and a second rate table corresponding to the received second class of service into the method taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because different classes of mail have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., Fig. 36).

32. As per claim 23, Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. teaches the system of claim 10 as described above. Uno, et al. further teaches said first rate table and said second rate table are stored in said memory (column 5, lines 37-40; column 15, Table). One having ordinary skill in the art the time of invention would have been motivated to

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incorporate said first rate table and said second rate table are stored in said memory into the system taught by Sansone, et al. in view of Uno, et al. because mail of different weights and dimensions have different rates (as taught by Uno, et al., column 15, Table).

Conclusion

33. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Connell, et al. I, U.S. Pat. No. 5,229,932 (Reference C of the attached PTO-892) teaches an apparatus for categorizing and certifying a batch of mail by determining parameters of the mail pieces of such batch including the physical dimensions, the weight, the size, class, readability, print contrast and reflectivity of the mail pieces; the mail pieces are also weighed, sized and the class of mail determined and postage amount is checked for the purpose of assuring the accuracy of the postage paid for the mail. Connell, et al. II, U.S. Pat. No. 5,452,654 (Reference D of the attached PTO-892) teaches a postage metering system including input means for inputting into the system a value of postage to be imprinted on a mail piece and means storing data concerning appropriate postage value amounts; a printing means is provided for printing a first postage imprint and for printing a different second postage imprint; a print control means coupled to the printing means and the storing means for causing the printing means to print the first postage imprint for an appropriate postage

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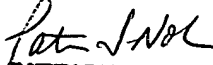
value and the second postage imprint for postage value which are other than the appropriate postage raise.


34. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel P. Vetter whose telephone number is (571) 270-1366. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Nolan can be reached on (571) 272-0847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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PATRICK J. NOLAN, PH.D.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
11/7/06


Daniel P. Vetter
AU #3628